

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

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Soldier Lynched

THE Southern Negro Youth Congress has asked the President to investigate the death at Fort Benning, Ga., of Private Felix Hall, Negro soldier. Vice Pres Dr James E Jackson has informed FDR that the official claim that Hall was a suicide is false: Hall was lynched.

According to the youth congress Hall's body was found hanging from a tree, its arms and legs bound. Court martial of the camp's officers is demanded.

Hitler's crimes against the Jews are equalled in the US by white crimes against black men. However, few lynchings are now reported. Inasmuch as these crimes usually take place in small towns the news is suppressed in local papers and not reported by the news agencies. Local correspondents for news agencies are usually publishers of local papers.

The Bulletin of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People claims that at Fort Benning "concentration camp tactics are allegedly being used against colored soldiers, and torture and killings take place at the pleasure of the military police." Letters tell of floggings and deaths. NAACP is also investigating Camp Lee.

Lily White Airplanes

RECENTLY, after a campaign by labor unions and Negro groups had called attention to the fact that virtually no Negroes are employed in the booming US aircraft industry, Sidney Hillman, co-director of OPM, wrote aircraft firms asking them to hire Negroes. When the National Negro Congress urged him to deny government contracts to companies which did not comply with this request, he said it was "impractical." At the time IN FACT went to press, no manufacturer had paid any attention to Hillman's letter.

One way of fighting discrimination in industry was publicized recently by the Pacific Coast longshore and warehousemen's union and big, progressive Local 65 in NY of the wholesale and warehouse employees (CIO). Several times in the last few months employers with closed shop contracts have refused to hire Negroes sent by the union hiring hall. In each case, when the unions took strike votes, the employers reconsidered. A NY boycott campaign by the National Negro Congress, the Harlem Labor Union and the Transport Workers forced two big bus companies to hire Negro drivers.

Curtiss-Wright and Negroes

ON the application for registration of the Curtiss-Wright Technical Institute, Glendale, Cal, appears this statement: "The management reserves the right to refuse entrance to any one not accept-

Dep't of Agriculture Urges Use of Fake Figures To Whip Up War Hysteria Among American Farmers

WASHINGTON observers on both sides of the convoy controversy agree that the group which has shown least enthusiasm for the administration's war policy is the farmers. With the announced purpose of counteracting "apathy" in the farm belt, Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard has recently been delivering increasingly warlike speeches in the middlewest. From Washington, IN FACT has been supplied with a confidential Dep't of Agriculture memorandum which reveals the Department's extreme concern with the desire of American farmers to remain at peace. To overcome this peace sentiment, it urges "key people in Agriculture" to resort to the crudest type of war propaganda.

A photostatic copy of this official attempt to instigate mass hysteria is in IN FACT's possession:

CONFIDENTIAL: FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

MAY 7, 1941

UNITED STATES DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

TO: All information advisors
FROM: John Fischer, Chief, Information Division
SUBJECT: Special Memorandum on National Defense (No. 8)

The Department has just received information that the British shipping situation is much more serious than most Americans have realized. While the Department has the exact figures, we cannot pass them on to you for military reasons. In general, however, the situation is this:

- 1) British ships are being sunk twice as fast as they can be replaced by the combined effort of British and American shipyards—and at the last report, the rate of loss was still rising.
- 2) Tonnage being landed at British ports is less than half of what it was before the war.
- 3) In the last month Britain has had to cut down on her imports of armaments from the United States in order to increase imports of food.
- 4) The food situation of Britain is so serious, that foundation herds of livestock and poultry are being slaughtered.

Department experts emphasize that these facts do not mean that England has lost the war. There is some doubt, however, whether England can hold out through the winter, if we do not take immediate and positive measures to see that American food and war materials are delivered at British ports.

What a British defeat would mean to this country should by this time be obvious to all of us. Many of the best informed people in Washington predict an invasion of the Western Hemisphere within 90 to 120 days, if Britain is defeated.

The Department feels that the American people—particularly the American farmers—do not understand these facts, and that vigorous action of the type needed, cannot be taken until this lack of understanding is remedied. For this reason, every agency in the Department has been asked to do all it can to get these facts before the people.

We cannot issue formal press releases or radio speeches on the subject for two obvious reasons—it is not the official job of the Department to discuss international affairs; and indiscriminate broadcasting of these facts might play into the hands of the appeasement propaganda groups.

We are requested, however, to carry these facts by word of mouth to as many as possible of our own officials and other key people in Agriculture such as FSA committeemen, etc.

The Doubtful Nature of the Department's Facts

IN FACT does not know by whom the Department of Agriculture has been "requested" to spread an invasion-scare. Most readers will probably agree that "it is not the official job of the Department to discuss international affairs." However, if the extensive apparatus of the Department of Agriculture is going to be devoted to propaganda for war-intervention, IN FACT calls its attention to

the fact that:

1) Chairman Emory S Land of the US Maritime Commission, with as authentic sources of information as the Agriculture Department, recently asserted that a relatively slight percentage of US aid to England has been sunk.

2) Some US shipping interests agree with the National Maritime Union that before US vessels enter war zones, Britain should transfer its 8,000,000 tons of shipping still engaged in neutral trade.

3) British livestock is being slaughtered because less shipping space is needed to import meat than fodder; although the food situation of all belligerents is grave, there is no evidence that Britain has been forced to curtail imports of US armaments.

4) To IN FACT's knowledge, no military expert has maintained that the US will be invaded "within 90 to 120 days." One of the earliest issues of IN FACT published a suppressed report of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee denying the possibility of a German invasion (Sept 9, 1940, p 3). The Department's orders to its "key people" (which incidentally have been ignored by lesser Agriculture Dep't officials actually in touch with farmers) to startle the US with the possibility of invasion is similar to Roosevelt's warnings last summer about the prospective bombing of Omaha, which were used to push through conscription.

Hoover's FBI Repeats 1918 Wartime Terrorism; Attacks Opponents of Dictatorship and War

IN ORDER to prepare for the bloodshed part of the war, which is expected to begin the day Hitler sinks an American ship carrying munitions, convoyed or not convoyed, the Roosevelt Administration has used Cabinet members, Congressmen, newspaper publishers and notables in an attempt to organize public opinion, which is still overwhelmingly opposed to war.

In World War I President Wilson's Attorney General Palmer did not institute his campaign of intimidation and terrorism till war was officially declared. Today J Edgar Hoover is using the FBI in exactly the same way he used it as Palmer's subordinate in 1918. History records the Hoover-Palmer raids as one of the most disgraceful pages in American history.

IN FACT (May 12) gave the evidence of FBI efforts to make the Bridges case part of a national fight to silence militant and progressive labor leaders, to attack civil liberties, to frighten all citizens who do not think the way Hoover and his employers want all America to think.

In this issue IN FACT presents more evidence of how Hoover's FBI 1) has become a Gestapo; 2) has used illegal methods to suppress opposition to war; 3) has compiled an index of 500,000 names; 4) has persecuted political minorities; 5) has attempted to suppress freedom of thought.

Hoover's FBI today as in 1918 has two functions: to track down criminals, saboteurs, spies, agents of enemy governments. No one can criticize this function. The other function is political, anti-labor, anti-civil liberties, illegal and terroristic. The records of the Dep't of Justice reveal that out of more than 5,000 cases brought by the FBI in World War I not one real spy, not one real saboteur or enemy of America went to jail.

However, there was method behind these seemingly useless 5,000 individual arrests, mass raids, fake bomb plots. They were frontpaged by all the papers, with screamer headlines. When they were proved to be hysterical falsehoods, the truth was suppressed or printed in a paragraph. The headlines scared America. People who knew that there were munitions sales to the enemy, that the big bankers led by Morgan got the US into a financial corner which forced the declaration of war, that both sides were fighting for imperialistic aims, men who tried to say in 1918 what Woodrow Wilson admitted on Sept 5 1919 (that it was a commercial war and nothing else) were silenced. America was regimented in the same way that the fascist nations which it is now preparing to fight are regimented. The FBI is the agency today for nazifying America. There are thousands of documented episodes to prove this. Here are a few.

Hoover Keeps Busy on Several Fronts

When the American Youth Congress and Mrs Roosevelt parted company last year the FBI began compiling dossiers on Youth Congress leaders (NY Times, Feb 6, 1940). One of its most reprehensible activities recently was the planting of a professional provocateur in the Worcester, Mass, Council of the Youth Congress. The documented story of his efforts to break up the council was told in the Worcester Telegram, Feb 5, 1940, and the Worcester Evening Gazette, Feb 6 and 7.

An FBI press release in Oct 1939 disclosed that Hoover had written "banks, civic groups, business houses and individuals" asking them to cooperate "in a calm, impartial and vigorous manner, free of hysteria, in lending aid in ridding America of those who desire to undermine the Federal government." In realistic terms, this meant that Hoover was appealing for assistance from private vigilante groups. At the same time he instructed every police chief in the country to notify the local office of the FBI every time they grant a permit for a public meeting. Last Friday the United Press reported that the FBI was "MOBILIZING 150,000 OFFICERS TO FIGHT 5TH COLUMN." In the first quarter of 1941 Hoover

able. Applications by persons of the Negro race will not be accepted." (Forms received from Sherwin Chase, Chi, and Mass Inst of Technology students.)

When Curtiss-Wright Corp was asked its policy on Negroes by newspaper PM, Pres Vaughan replied: "We employ many. Company makes no discrimination in selection of employees."

Henry Ford's labor dictator (until this week), Harry Bennett, employed numerous Negroes recently for strikebreaking purposes. Following fights with pickets, Walter White, Negro leader, said the situation was confused because Ford had hired more Negroes than other employers and had given them some chances "to rise above the menial ranks, which contrasts sharply with Knudsen's General Motors." The Ford labor policy was to profit by antagonisms between white and black, Protestant and Catholic, native-born and foreign-born. The CIO victory means the end of this Fordism.

A fascist organization, Vigilantes of Liberty, is announced in California by Aircraft Times, a paper which represents employers' views but calls itself the organ of "workers in the aircraft industry." The Vigilantes are being organized by Burton Griffin and Evan Morgan. One purpose would be to make strikes "appear ridiculous . . . while such alleged subversion, now charged against Orson Welles' Free Company program . . . could not exist." Aircraft Times exists on corporation advertising; it is usually distributed free. (Item from JWR, Santa Monica.)

US Navy Anti-Semitism

IN Nov the US Army adopted regulations barring graduates of foreign medical schools from Army Medical Corps. Since many Jews have gone to Europe for their medical degrees because American medical schools have a strict quota system, this was a direct anti-Semitic regulation. The American Hebrew recently reported:

"A certain young Jewish medico seeking appointment in the Navy qualified in all other respects until the examining officer asked him his religion.

"'I'm Jewish,' he said.

"'You don't look it and your name isn't Jewish,' was the amazing reply. 'That's how you happened to get this far, probably. But if you are Jewish, you'll never get into the Navy without a lot of political pull. They're dead set against Jews.'"

British Purchasing Again

SEVERAL IN FACT readers, associated with Jewish organizations which are in doubt as to what stand to take on the war, write that Sir Louis Beale, head of the British Purchasing Commission in NY, denies that the Commission discriminates against Jews, as was stated in one of IN FACT's most widely reprinted stories (March 17). As proof Sir Louis points to the presence of several highly paid Jews on his staff.

IN FACT has no information on the percentage of Jews employed by the Commission. We do know that many business firms which practice anti-Semitism occasionally hire one or two Jews as window-dressing; we also know that even outspoken anti-Semitic spokesmen like Father Coughlin deny that they are anti-Semitic. The NY financial community, of which the British Purchasing Commission is a part, is riddled with anti-Semitism and racial prejudice, as anyone

knows who has applied for a job in a bank or brokerage house.

The application blank for three statistical typists, "Female, positively White, positively Christian, of English, Scotch, Welsh or Ulster Irish origin or descent," reproduced in IN FACT, did not purport to be an official British Purchasing Commission blank, as Sir Louis has declared to IN FACT correspondents. It was a blank issued to branch offices of the NY State Employment Service. However, IN FACT had information of an extremely positive character linking it to an application from the Purchasing Commission, which Sir Louis does not deny having made. In this case (as in others where an individual's livelihood is endangered) IN FACT is not able to reveal its source. The code number on the blanks, IN FACT can state, corresponds to the code number of the British Purchasing Commission's file with the Employment Service.

Official Hitlerism

THE principal fact brought out in IN FACT's story was that the NY State Employment Service, a government agency supported by payroll taxes levied without distinction of race or color, was a party to discrimination practiced by private employers. IN FACT is unable to understand why Jewish groups and at least one Jewish magazine (Jewish Frontier), which were quick to come to the defense of the British Purchasing Commission, ignored this part of IN FACT's expose.

IN FACT has other information on acts of discrimination participated in by government agencies.

Last summer, when the State Relief Administration of California supplied young men to the National Youth Administration for training for jobs in aviation, the official contract provided that "only white male youths be trainees on projects, especially excluding Negro youths, Jewish youths, Portugese youths and Mexican youths." The director of the NYA in Los Angeles, one of the centers of war production, has given the following rules for applicants for the training program: "The eligibility requirements for admission are in conformity with those of national defense, of the aircraft industry, and of the aircraft schools cooperating with us: 1) White male youths, between the ages of 18 and 24, preferably high school graduates. (Mexicans for the present are not eligible.) 2) Second generation, American born. This latter must be verified by a birth certificate." Organizations representing the foreign born noted that this provision would exclude both Sidney Hillman and Wm Knudsen, the two foreign-born directors of the OPM.

Falsehood Preferred

THE strangest criticism of the British Purchasing story came from a university

conducted conferences attended by 8357 officers, representing almost every police force in the land.

Recently (Feb 7) the head of the Newark division of the FBI told the Jersey City Chamber of Commerce that members of minority parties "are not entitled to rights provided by the Constitution." After the G-man who shot Dillinger realized on his notoriety by going to work for a breakfast-food company, Hoover added a section to the G-man oath providing that no G-man could talk to reporters or give a speech unless Hoover approved it first. The NY Sun (Mar 20) reported that the FBI had taken for its index all election petitions of minority parties filed with the NY Board of Elections. It was recently testified in a political case in Reading, Penn, that the names of all signers of Communist nominating petitions, many of whom were certainly not Communists, had been sent to the FBI. Attorney General Robert Jackson is popularly credited in Washington with the device for frustrating free elections widely used last fall: publication of the names of petition signers, exposing them to intimidation from the FBI, American Legion, Hearst and Howard newspapers and local police.

FBI as Part of the War Drive

The current issue of the Washington New Dealer, organ of the Washington Commonwealth Federation, reports that Mrs Julia Cockcroft, invalid wife of an Episcopalian missionary from Seattle, was recently ordered by two G-men to stop writing President Roosevelt against war. Mrs Cockford defiantly told the New Dealer, "I will continue to fight for a decent world for decent people to live in decently, healthfully, prosperously and happily."

In January Rev W Marion Jeschke of St Luke's Evangelical Church in Buffalo presided at an American Peace Mobilization rally. Rev Jeschke revealed in a sermon the next Sunday that FBI agents had called upon him and asked him threatening questions.

A recent conference of the Oklahoma Federation for Constitutional Rights, which is defending the civil liberties of ten persons now on trial in Oklahoma City for criminal syndicalism, was greeted by Governor Leon Phillips, who said, "These advocates of civil liberties will be doing some good by their meeting because it identifies them." He announced that he had turned over to the FBI all letters protesting the criminal syndicalist trials.

At about the same time an AFL sugar worker in Crockett, Calif, was arrested by G-men for "writing threatening letters to President Roosevelt." The letters, it turned out, opposed war legislation supported by the administration. A similar occurrence was used last fall by Bruce Barton, running for Senator in NY. A Greenwich, Conn, woman wrote Roosevelt a mild letter objecting to his Charlottesville speech which, she said, "seems to me calculated to build up a psychosis which may drive us into a war in which we might lose our own liberty as well as the lives of our youth." Two months later she received a letter from the Dept of Justice: "In reply to your letter of June 14 concerning your views of the war in Europe, please be advised that the statements contained therein have been carefully noted by the department." When she asked for a copy of her letter she received a photostatic copy stamped, "Criminal Division, Jun 19 1940, Received."

Two months ago Colliers magazine reported in detail the case of a Latin American student at a Virginia prep school who wrote an article for a paper in Colombia criticizing England for not helping Czechoslovakia. "Someone in Colombia sent the article to someone in Canada. From Canada it was mailed to Washington. Immediately a couple of G-men appeared at the Virginia school." The student was let alone only when he told the G-men that England had not helped Czechoslovakia because of geographical reasons.

How Hoover Makes His Blacklist

Most alarming aspect of the General Intelligence Division, to people who remember Hoover's record in World War I, is its card-index. Before the Appropriations Committee in Nov 1939 Hoover said, "This Division now has compiled extensive indexes of individuals, groups and organizations engaged in these subversive activities, in espionage activities, or any activities that are possibly detrimental to the internal security of the US. The indexes have been arranged not only alphabetically but also geographically, so that at any time, should we enter into the conflict abroad" (which most responsible officials, unlike Hoover, did not mention openly in Nov 1939) "we would be able to go into any of these communities and identify individuals or groups who might be a source of grave danger to the security of this country."

In World War I, it has been testified, Hoover had more than 500,000 names on his index. IN FACT is told by Washington correspondents that in the last year and a half he has compiled at least that many more. The FBI files every anonymous complaint which comes into its 54 field offices. These now average 214 a day. A member of the Appropriations Committee once asked Hoover, "About what percentage are you able to dispose of as being preposterous on their face?" Hoover replied, "Not any of these 214 are of that character." The Inter-church World Movement, investigating the FBI's intervention in the 1919 steel strike, published a file of documents showing how the FBI index was built up. An illiterate scrawl on a torn envelope, on which an obviously deranged person accused five steel workers of causing him to lose his job, was retyped by the

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local police department and sent to the US Steel Co, which retyped it again and sent it to all the other steel companies and the FBI, which filed it as "Secret—Very Important," identifying the five steel workers as radicals and agitators.

Even before the war, according to the Att'y Gen'l's report for 1939 (p. 158), the FBI had instituted an investigation of "subversive influences" on information supplied by the Dies Committee, which usually (and deliberately) confuses subversion with union activity. Dies Committee records are the principal source besides anonymous complaints for the FBI index. Att'y Gen'l Jackson, when not engaged in whitewashing Hoover, has said, "The prosecutor has no definite standards to determine what constitutes a 'subversive activity' . . . Activities which seem helpful or benevolent to wage earners, persons on relief, or those who are disadvantaged in the struggle for existence may be regarded as 'subversive' by those whose property interests are affected thereby. Some of our soundest constitutional doctrines were once punished as subversive." (Speech at conference of US Attorneys, April 1, 1940).

Congressional committees which have asked Hoover for routine information about a New Deal appointee have sometimes been startled to receive their request back with a pencilled notation in Hoover's handwriting: "Notorious Red." Hoover's conception of "notorious reds" is almost as loose as that of Martin Dies. Hoover at one time had dossiers on notable Americans like Justice Harlan Stone, Justice Felix Frankfurter, Senators Walsh, Borah, Norris, Wheeler, LaFollette. FBI agents once shadowed Herbert Hoover. The General Intelligence Division was disbanded in 1924 by Att'y Gen'l Stone after FBI agents created a scandal by rifling the offices of Senator Norris and Senator LaFollette.

Recently the Smith Committee, smearing the Labor board, introduced a letter from Hoover to Chairman Madden: "I wish to advise you information has been received by this Bureau to the effect that Grant Cannon, a field examiner connected with the NLRB at St Louis, Mo, is known to have radical tendencies leaning toward Communism. It is further reported that Cannon has studied anthropology and has been affiliated with the NLRB for three years. It was also reported that Cannon visited Mexico City, Mexico, to observe the presidential election in that country in July, 1940."

Several months ago the National Association of Building Owners and Managers sent a letter to its janitors and building superintendents urging them to keep a tab on suspicious characters. It gave a list of FBI agents in 53 cities. "Your training and experience have qualified you to observe anything of an unusual or suspicious character," said the letter. (Friday Magazine, Jan 24.)

IN FACT has been told by one of its subscribers, a middlewestern business man, that when he bought a mimeograph machine for use in his office a G-man called on him and told him to report to the FBI if he ever sold the machine.

The FBI Supported by Roosevelt

Critics of the FBI usually confine their opposition to Hoover, though he merely carries out the orders of his superiors. The General Intelligence Division was reestablished in 1939 as the result of a presidential proclamation. Last year, when Hoover was being criticized in Congress, administration columnists Pearson and Allen reported: "Not many know that J Edgar Hoover had a private talk with the President last week in which Roosevelt gave him an emphatic 100% ok." Ludwell Denny wrote, "This crusade against so-called subversive activities was not started last fall by J Edgar Hoover but by Mr Roosevelt."

The annual report of the executive board of the Newspaper Guild, printed in the current Guild Reporter, throws light on the question of whether or not President Roosevelt has abandoned his progressive position of the past. "When we find Knox, Knudsen, Stimson, Morgenthau, Jackson, Arnold and Leiserson carrying out the attacks on labor and on the pockets of the low income groups," it says; "when the Wagner Act and the Wage-Hour Act are sabotaged from within, when the president himself feeds the press campaign against labor, we are forced to drop a pleasant fiction. The Guild Reporter of June 15 1934 carried the head HEARST IS INVITED TO MEET GUILD; HOSTILITY ATTRIBUTED TO HIS AIDES. When we overcame the trade union illusion that only the straw bosses are nasty, while the boss loves us, we made progress."



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HEALTH IN HANDCUFFS by Dr John A Kingsbury, one of America's foremost authorities on Public Health. This book tells why over 40% of all men registered under the Draft Act are rejected because of bad health.

paper, Columbia Sentinel, which did not question the truth of the story. It editorialized:

"In times of peace IN FACT would be hitting smack on the chin, but in the choking struggle for very life the free press crusader is sniping below the belt. Cast-off papers thrown into enemy hands might bottleneck supplies to the island's defense. . . . A war for existence cannot allow loopholes. Suggestion to IN FACT: Mark time and get back into its crusading gait."

Suggestion to Sentinel: We prefer truth to falsehood, even in wartime. What do they teach in Columbia nowadays?

Sacrifice

ONE of the many paradoxes of the war occurred in the Capitol last week. On Tuesday President Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress proposing a reduction in his Budget estimate for WPA. Three days later an announcement was sent out on plans for the President's conference on nutrition and defense. The announcement stressed that some way would have to be found to get more food to the 45,000,000 undernourished persons in the United States.

The paradox became more striking when IN FACT's Washington correspondent learned that prior to sending his message to Capitol Hill, the President had received from the WPA a significant figure which did not appear in the message. This figure showed that well over 1,000,000 were still on the WPA waiting list but could not be employed because the appropriation for the current fiscal year was too small. The appropriation for this year totalled \$1,350,650,000. The President asked that \$886,000,000 be appropriated for next year, \$109,000,000 less than he had asked in the January budget message. This reduction followed weeks of clamor from the Economy Bloc on Capitol Hill for cuts in "non-defense" expenditures.

War and Unemployment

There are now approximately 1,500,000 workers on WPA. The sum asked by President Roosevelt would allow an average monthly employment of 1,000,000. WPA officials privately say that only a fraction of the workers dropped will obtain employment in industry.

Workers with needed skills already have been siphoned off WPA. Concentration of defense contracts in a small number of corporations has left large areas of the country with no demand for new workers. Technological unemployment, plus workers turned out of plants which are unable to obtain enough vital materials, have added to the reservoir of idle labor, which helps to explain also why there are over 9,000,000 unemployed after the draft and a year of heavy government spending. (Estimate by CIO Economic Outlook.)

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